

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06
OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01 AID-05 DODE-00 /086 W
-----071203Z 102529 /13

R 071055Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7912
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DULIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
DEA HQ WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UK, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: POSSIBLE "POMPIDOU GROUP" INITIATIVE ON
THAILAND

REF: (A) LONDON 00190; (B) BANGKOK 76 31492 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY'SWHILE THERE MAY BE SOME MERIT AT SOME POINT IN
FUTURE IN ENCOURAGING A "POMPIDOU GROUP" APPROACH TO
THAILAND TO IMPROVE THAI NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT
EFFORTS (REF A), WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT RPT NOT THE
TIME. RECORD OF THAI GOVERNMENT IN SEIZING NARCOTICS
IS CURRENTLY VERY ENCOURAGING, AND NEW RTG HAS MADE
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STRONG AND EXPLICIT COMMITMENT TO STRUGGLE AGAINST
NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION AUTHORIZED
IN LEGISLATION APPROVED NOV 12, BUT PRIME MINISTER IS
GOING SLOW IN SETTING IT UP, CLEARLY RECOGNIZING POTENTIAL
FOR ABUSE OF VERY BROAD POWERS THIS NEW BODY WILL HAVE.
UNTIL DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION IS FORMED AND BEGINS TO
HAVE AN IMPACT (AS WE BELIEVE IT WILL), IT WOULD BE BEST

TO PUT OFF AN APPROACH TO THAI BY "POMPIDOU GROUP" AT THIS TIME. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT INSTRUCT EMBASSY LONDON TO EXPRESS VIEW TO APPROPRIATE BRITISH OFFICIALS THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO ARRANGE FOR "POMPIDOU GROUP" APPROACH TO THAI FOR THE PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME MERIT AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE IN ENCOURAGING A "POMPIDOU GROUP" APPROACH TO THAILAND TO IMPROVE THAI NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS (REF A), WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOT RPT NOT THE TIME. NEW THAI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY SINCE OCT 22 BUT HAS MADE CLEAR ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO AN IMPROVED EFFORT IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. RTG POLICE AND CUSTOMS SEIZED 59 KILOGRAMS OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTS (IN OPIUM EQUIVALENTS) IN NOVEMBER 1976; 600 KILOGRAMS IN DECEMBER, 1976; AND 220 KILOGRAMS IN FIRST WEEK OF 1977. EVEN UNDER PRECEDING THAI GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS VERY CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THAI NARCOTICS SEIZURES DURING 1976 AS A WHOLE, WHEN OVER 8.1 METRIC TONS WERE SEIZED, COMPARED TO ONLY 3.4 METRIC TONS IN 1975. (ALL FIGURES IN OPIUM EQUIVALENTS.)

2. APART FROM THE IMPROVED SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS, RTG COMPLETED ACTION ON LEGISLATION NOV 12, 1976, TO ESTABLISH DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION (DSC) IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (REF B). DSC WILL HAVE BROAD POWERS OF INVESTIGATION, SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND ARREST IN DRUG-RELATED CASES. DSC ITSELF WILL CONTROL THE PROCESS OF ARREST, INVESTIGATION, INTERROGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF DRUG CASES IN WHICH IT IS INVOLVED. ACTUAL SETTING UP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE DSC HAS MOVED SLOWLY, AS PRIME MINISTER THANIN HAS TAKEN HIS TIME TO APPOINT SENIOR OFFICERS OF THIS NEW AND POTENTIALLY VERY POWERFUL COMMISSION. HE CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE OF SELECTING BEST MAN AVAILABLE TO HEAD COMMISSION AND INFORMALLY CONSULTED AMBASSADOR ON THIS SUBJECT IN NOVEMBER. APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DSC HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT IT IS AUTHORITATIVELY RUMORED THAT SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL BE A RESPECTED JUDGE, PRAMUK SAWATDIMONGKHON. PRIME MINISTER THANIN WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE DSC HIMSELF, UNDERLINING THE EXTENT OF HIS CONCERN WITH THE WHOLE ISSUE OF DRUG ABUSE.

3. MOREOVER, DUTCH MINISTER OF JUSTICE VAN AGT AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DUTCH POLICE FONTEIJN ARE DUE TO VISIT BANGKOK NEXT WEEK. WE ARE SURE THAT VAN AGT WILL MAKE ALL OF THE POINTS WHICH "POMPIDOU GROUP" WOULD CONSIDER MAKING TO THAI. (DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR IS MEETING WITH VAN AGT DURING HIS VISIT TO THAILAND. CANADIAN AND

BRITISH EMBOFFS WILL ALSO ATTEND MEETING.)

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT BEST WAY TO ELICIT IMPROVED THAI COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS FIELD IS TO DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING OF VERY CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENTS THEY HAVE RECORDED INPAST AND TO INVITE THEIR COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE, ALONG VERY CAREFULLY DEFINED AND THOUGH-OUT LINES. WORST WAY TO GET THAI COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD IS TO HIT THEM OVER THE HEAD, WHICH IS WHAT WE FEAR THE "POMPIDOU GROUP" MIGHT DO, IF IT GOES OFF HALF COCKED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSYLONDON BE INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS TO APPROPRIATE BRITISH OFFICIALS OUR APPRECIATION OF THE POSSIBLE VALUE OF AN APPROACH TO THE THAI BY THE "POMPIDOU GROUP". HOWEVER, UNTIL THE DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION HAS BEEN FORMED AND HAS BEGUN TO HAVE AN IMPACT (AS WE BELIEVE IT WILL, IT WOULD BE BEST TO PUT OFF AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROACH TO THE THAI BY THE "POMPIDOU GROUP" AT THIS TIME. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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